SI.No.	Name of the post	Sanctioned	(illed	vacant
40,	Publication Assistant	01	01	
41.	Senior Technician	11	05	06
42.	Senior Draughtsman	02	02	___
43.	Data Entry Operator (Grade-1)	02	02	___
44.	Driver (Grade-I)	05	03	02
45	Junior Technician	05	02	03
46.	Senior Laboratory Assistant	*11*	*25*	*65l*
47.	Cashier	06		06
48.	Driver (Grade-Il)	07	06	01
49.	Junior Draughtsman	01	01	
Ml.	Stenographer	21	04	17
51.	Upper Division Clerk	14	14	
52.	Data Entry Operator (Grade-II)	02	01	01
5.V.	Driver Ordinary	13	10	03
54.	Despatch Rider	02		02
55.	Junior Laboratory Assistant	38	09	29
56.	Lower Division Clerk	40	24	16
57.	Plumber	01	01	
58.	Pump & Wheel Valve Operator	02		02
59.	Senior Attcndant	05	05	
60.	Field Assistant	07	07	
61.	Attendant	49	32	17

(b) and (c) The Recruitment Rules of the CPCB were notified by the Chairman, CPCB on 24.01.1995. CPCB authorities have informed to have initiated actions for filling up the vacant posts as per the Recruitment Rules notified in the year 1995. The posts are expected to be filled up in due course. The Recruitment Rules for the two posts of Director and eight posts of Additional Director, which have been created for Environment Surveillance Squads of the CPCB on 1st March, 1996, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, are under consideration in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training.

Ineffectiveness of Legislation to check Poaching of Tigers

3684. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P, GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Poaching of Tigers is flourishing inspite of three legislations to protect the Tiger, due to lack of political will;

(b) whether Government are aware that one Indian tiger is killed everyday and illegally exported to other countries for Tigers products;

(c) whether Government have analysed the impact of Tiger poaching on environ ment;

(d) the steps Government propose to take to check this dangerous trend; and

(c) the Tiger population in India at
present?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The rise in number of detection of illegal trade in Tiger parts and products can be attributed to stringent measures taken by the Ministry with the help of other enforcement agencies. This may not be taken as increase in poaching cases. Therefore, to state that there is no political will is not correct.

(b) The Government is aware of the reports appearing in the Press to this effect. No hard data has been given to substantiate the reports. According to this Ministry the claims are highly exaggerated.

(c) The Tiger, being at the apex of the pyramid of the eco-system, the extinction of tiger, if takes place, will upset the environmental equilibrium.

(d) The steps taken by the Government are given in the enclosed statement *(See* below)

(e) The populatin of Tiger, as per the estimation carried out in 1993 is 3750.

Statement

Steps Taken by the Government to Check Dangerous Trend of Poaching of Tigers

(i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been banned by law.

(ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(iii) A network of 441 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 80 National Parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. The Govt, of India have also launched the "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant" in the years 1973 and 1991 respectively to give impetus to the conservation of these wild animals. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government under various centrally sponsored plan schemes, including the Project Tiger and Project Elephant Schemes, & for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

(iv) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.

(v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The trade in ivory is totally banned.

(vi) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(vii) Interdepartmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995;

(viii) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been ;ct up in the Ministry to suggest improvement in the management of tiger bearing areas of the country.

(ix) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

(x) Steps arc being initiated to set up 'Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas;

(xi) A Protocol has been signed with the Govt, of Peoples' Republic of China to coordinate bilateral issues concerning tiger conservation and to check smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body; and

(xii) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the 'Global Tiger Forum' for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the tiger range countries.

Appointment of Committee to Study the effect of Yanni's Concert on Taj Mahal

3685. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had ap pointed any Committee to study the ef fect of western musician Yanni's concert on the Taj Mahal in Agra, recently;

(b) if so, the observations of the Com mittee; and